

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 OES-09 AF-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR USDEL NELS JOHNSON; ALSO FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:WMO, OCON

SUBJECT: WMO SEVENTH SESSION OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V -
JAKARTA, JULY 18-26, 1978

1. SCIENCE OFFICE AT US MISSION GENEVA HAS REPORTED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF RA V HAVE INDICATED THAT ISSUE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WILL BE RAISED AT CURRENT SESSION.
2. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION AS TO THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED, IF INDEED IT IS DISCUSSED, DEPT PROVIDES FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE FOR USDEL.

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3. FYI BACKGROUND: PROTUGAL, WHICH CONTROLLED APPROXIMATELY HALF OF TIMOR ISLAND FOR 400 YEARS, LITERALLY ABANDONED THE TERRITORY IN 1974-75 IN FACE OF GROWING CIVIL WAR BETWEEN CONTENDING ELEMENTS OF TIMORESE SOCIETY WHICH FAVORED INDEPENDENCE ON ONE HAND AND INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA ON OTHER. INDONESIA, WHICH INHERITED OTHER HALF

OF ISLAND FROM DUTCH AT INDEPENDENCE, SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVENED AT REQUEST OF GROUPS FAVORING INTEGRATION AND IN JULY 1976 FORMALLY ANNEXED TERRITORY. INDONESIA NOW CONTROLS VIRTUALLY ALL OF FORMER PORTUGUESE TIMOR ALTHOUGH A PRO-INDEPENDENCE FACTION CONTINUES MILITARY ACTION TO OPPOSE

INDONESIAN CONTROL. USG ACCEPTS THE FACT OF EAST TIMOR'S INCORPORATION INTO INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT CLAIM THAT THERE HAS BEEN A VALID EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. FURTHER BACKGROUND, IF NECESSARY, AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY. END FYI.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, SHOULD QUESTION ARISE, USDEL MAY STATE THAT USG ACCEPTS THE FACT OF THE INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. SINCE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IN ADDITION EFFECTIVELY CONTROLS THE TERRITORY, USG BELIEVES THAT FOR PURPOSES OF PRACTICAL OPERATIONS WMO CAN ONLY LOOK TO INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE TERRITORY.

5. IF SPECIFIC SITUATION DEVELOPS FOR WHICH MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE IS NEEDED, USDEL SHOULD CONTACT US EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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